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It may be heartily commended as a long step toward simplicity, uniformity, and scientific arrangement of institutional statistics.

In detail one may, of course, find opportunities for criticism. For instance, the classification by color, as white, black, red, and yellow, might be replaced by a racial subdivision more harmonious with anthropology, and yet simple enough to be applied by institutions' officials. The classification of the conjugal condition of the parents of inmates under the headings "happy" and "unhappy" seems hardly to promise sufficient exactness to be of statistical value. Finally the tables giving the causes of insanity, with which Dr. Patterson states his intention of doing away in the future, furnish abundant proof of the wisdom of that resolution. Among these "supposed or assigned" causes are the following: hysteria, change of home, disappointment, spiritualism, paralysis (classed as a moral influence), poor health, Christian Science, ill treatment, military service, political excitement, trouble, worry, and previous attacks of insanity.

C.-E. A. WINSLOW.

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#### CENSUS OF CUBA.

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*Report on the Census of Cuba, 1899.* Lieut.-Col. J. P. Sanger, Director; Henry Gannett and Walter F. Willcox, Statistical Experts. War Department, Washington, 1900; pp. 786.

Dr. Ripley in another communication has called attention to the suggestive material which the census volume on Cuba contributes to sociological problems of race. There are other features of this statistical report which deserve mention.

In the first place, the war department is to be congratulated on having entrusted the work to competent statisticians. This is a happy omen when it is remembered that neither of the editors is connected with the war department. Again, the war department and the editors are to be congratulated upon the prompt execution of their work. It is exceptional to have a census in which tables so complex are compiled and edited within a little over a year from the beginning of the field work. A change has also been introduced into the form of the volume which makes it much more convenient for the reader. The pages are octavo instead of quarto, and consequently the volume is easily handled. It raises the query whether it would not be better to have more of our census volumes in this shape. The usual quarto is forbidding and difficult to shelve.

This volume covers a considerable scope. The geography and history of the island are briefly discussed. Under history, attention is called to the causes affecting progress in the past. A brief sketch of the political organization is here included. Pages 72-167 are devoted to a discussion of the tables relating to the total population, urban and rural, distribution in altitude, sexes, general nativity and color, age, birth-place, citizenship, education, conjugal condition, illegitimacy, occupation, and number and size of families.

Pages 523-564 are devoted to agriculture, in which tables are presented in regard to farm areas, tenure by race and by size of farm, production, especially of sugar, molasses, and live stock.

Pages 565-620 are devoted to education. In the appendices are the orders organizing the census, with the reports of the six native supervisors, and the reports of three enumerators. There is also a list of enumerators and some miscellaneous memoranda.

The editors have served the public in introducing into the text of the census comparisons between the population of Cuba and other population groups, particularly in the West Indies. This latter point is of special value, inasmuch as the statistics of this group of islands is somewhat difficult to obtain. The analysis of age statistics is quite full and more detailed than usual. There is an effort to determine the loss of life in Cuba during the last four or five years by the decrease by deaths over the increase by births. The reports of the native supervisors are full of interest. These officials undertook their work apparently with commendable civic pride, which speaks well for political responsibility and faithfulness in Cubans who may be called upon for government service. The interest of the volume is increased by photographs and a series of charts.

D. R. D.

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#### ENGLISH CENSUS TAKING.

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In the *Journal of the Institute of Actuaries* (London) for October, 1900, there appears (pp. 341-352) a paper on census taking, read before the Institute, by Reginald Dudfield, Medical Officer of Health of Paddington, England.

In the matter of a census, two things arise for primary consideration: (1) the character of the census, *i. e.*, the information to be taken, and (2) the frequency with which the census should be taken.